

United States Air Force

HQ Air University Public Affairs (AU/PAN)
55 LeMay Plaza South, Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6335
TEL NO. (334) 953-2825, FAX 953-3379, DSN 493-2825

FACT SHEET

05-01

Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools

Most newly commissioned officers begin their careers upon completion of Air University's Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) or Officer Training School (OTS) programs. In February 1997, in an effort to reduce duplication of effort and streamline administrative and reporting procedures within Air University, these two organizations realigned under the newly created Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools (AFOATS) at Maxwell AFB, AL. AFOATS is commanded by a brigadier general. This restructuring placed over three-quarters of Air Force officer production under AFOATS and facilitated the sharing of manpower and expertise with minimum effect on the day-to-day operations of AFROTC or OTS. AFOATS produces approximately 80 percent of the Air Force line officer production and 100 percent of the Air Force non-line officer production (includes chaplain, nurse and medical specialties) and legal officers. These new officers come from active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units.

Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools

AFOATS provides coordinated leadership and policy direction for the Air Force's officer recruiting, training, and commissioning programs at Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) detachments at colleges and universities throughout the US and Puerto Rico and at Officer Training School (OTS). AFOATS staff develops curriculum and



provides communications, computers, logistics and financial management support to train tomorrow's Air Force officers. AFOATS also directs the Air Force's high school citizenship training program – Air Force Junior ROTC.

Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps

Air Force ROTC, headquartered at Maxwell AFB, AL., is the largest and oldest source of commissioned officers for the Air Force. The organization's mission is to produce leaders for the Air Force. AFROTC is active on more than 140 college and university campuses with more than 900 additional schools participating in cross-town agreements that allow their students to attend AFROTC classes at an area host school. The program commissions some 2,500 second lieutenants each year.

Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps

Air Force Junior ROTC provides citizenship training and an aerospace science program for high school youth. Enrollment in the Junior ROTC program is open to all young people who are in the 9th or higher grade, physically fit, and United States citizens. The objectives of the junior program are to educate and train high school cadets in citizenship; promote community service; instill responsibility, character, and self-discipline; and provide instruction in air and space fundamentals. Located on 746 high school campuses across the United States and selected Department of Defense Dependent schools overseas, Air Force Junior ROTC touches more than 106,000 young people daily. The AFJROTC program is expected to expand to 945 units by fiscal year 2007.

Officer Training School

Officer Training School, also located at Maxwell, is the "flexible partner" of Air Force commissioning programs. Depending on each year's production requirements, OTS has the flexibility to increase or decrease production annually. In the past, OTS has surged to meet wartime officer requirements in its "flexible partner role," producing as many as 7,894 new second lieutenants in one year. The organization's mission is to train and commission quality officers for the U.S. Air Force.

OTS provides two officer training programs: Basic Officer Training (BOT) and Commissioned Officer Training (COT). Together they produce about 3,000 trained officers annually.

Basic Officer Training (BOT) is an intensive 12-week program that prepares officer trainees for the physical and professional requirements of commissioned service. The BOT curriculum encompasses five general subject areas: leadership studies, professional knowledge, communication skills, defense studies, and field leadership application. Leadership training culminates with Vigilant Warrior, a 4-day, 3-night laboratory that allows officer trainees to practice leadership skills and introduces them to field conditions. BOT commissioned 1,033 new second lieutenants in FY04.

Commissioned Officer Training is a 4.5-week program that provides military and leadership training for Air Force judge advocates, chaplains, medical services officers (doctors, nurses, dentists, biomedical science corps officers, and hospital administrators), and medical scholarship recipients. The Reserve COT (RCOT) course is a 14-day intensive program designed for hard-to-recruit Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard medical service officers. COT and RCOT training is conducted at Maxwell Air Force Base on the OTS campus.

COT's curriculum covers the same five general subject areas as BOT. Students are commissioned prior to training. The military rank of COT students is awarded based on the professional credentials in their respective fields. Student ranks typically range from second lieutenants to lieutenant colonels. COT provides military training for about 1,500 officers yearly. COT officers are trained for active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units.

**Current as of April 2005
Supersedes Previous Editions
Subject to Change**